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Dear Mr. Paradis,

As you are undoubtedly aware, Ottawa has been experiencing unprecedented demonstrations since Friday, January 28.

The situation has been very disruptive and disturbing for residents and businesses. Some demonstrators have gone as far as to desecrate the National War Memorial. Last weekend, demonstrators were reported to have climbed the Cenotaph, danced and jumped on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and parked vehicles on the surrounding grounds of the National War Memorial. The Ottawa Police Service is investigating these and other incidents.

There are reports of additional demonstrators and convoys coming this weekend. As I'm sure you can appreciate, the Ottawa Police Service is fully engaged in trying to maintain public safety during the ongoing demonstrations and does not have the resources required to provide dedicated monitoring and protection of the National War Memorial on a continuous basis. The City and its residents do not want to see this Cenotaph desecrated again.

I am writing on behalf of the City of Ottawa to request federal protection measures for the National War Memorial, to be installed by tomorrow afternoon. The installation of eight-foot-tall fencing, bolted together and all the way around the perimeter of the Cenotaph, including the trees, in addition to vehicle barriers, would ensure that demonstrators cannot access the monument and we do not see a repeat of last weekend's deplorable events.

I appreciate your support and consideration during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Kim Ayotte
General Manager, Emergency and Protective Services
City of Ottawa

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